REMARKS

Claims 1-29 were originally submitted.

No claims are canceled.

Claims 23-26 have been previously amended.

Claims 30-39 have been added in a previous response.

Claims 1-39 remain in this application.

Claims 1, 3-4, 7-8, 10, 15, 21-22, 26-30, 32-33, 36, and 39 are currently amended.

The declaration filed 6/17/2003 under 37 CFR 1.131 has been accepted to overcome the cited reference U.S. Patent 6,219,653 to O'Neill et al.

Examiner Douglas Blair and Emmanuel A. Rivera conducted a telephone interview on January 13, 2004 as to amendments to overcome the rejections listed below. Mr. Rivera faxed a proposed set of Claim Amendments to Examiner Blair which is represented as the current claim listing beginning on page 2 of this paper. Examiner Blair presented the proposed set of Claim Amendments to his Primary Examiner, and Mr. Rivera received a call back indicating that the proposed set would overcome the rejections below.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 3, 8, 30, and 32

Claims 1, 3, 8, 30 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,812,669 to Jenkins et al (Jenkins). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

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Claims 1-11, 13-17 and 19-29

Claims 1-11, 13-17 and 19-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,490,567 to Gregory et al (Gregory). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 12 and 18

Claims 12 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gregory in view of U.S. Patent 6,466,490 to Mills et al (Mills). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 31 and 33-39

Claims 31 and 33-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jenkins in view of Gregory. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

CONCLUSION

All pending claims 1-39 are in condition for allowance. **Applicant** respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the subject application. If any issues remain that prevent issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney before issuing a subsequent Action.

Dated: 1/24/24

Respectfully Submitted,

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By:

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